



OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
FOR THE AGENCIES OF THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH  
GOVERNOR

32 WEST RANDOLPH STREET, SUITE 1900  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601  
312-814-5600

JAMES A. WRIGHT  
EXECUTIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 26, 2008**

**Contact: Gilbert R. Jimenez**  
**Deputy Inspector General**  
**312-814-5600**

**OEIG Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report Shows  
Founded Misconduct Investigations Increased 31 % Over FY 2006**

CHICAGO – Executive Inspector General James A. Wright Tuesday announced the release of the Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report of the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor (“OEIG”). This second agency annual report reflects the investigation and ethics training activities conducted between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007.

The report is available to the public only by download. A copy of this report can be obtained from the OEIG web site: <http://inspectorgeneral.il.gov>.

During FY 07 the OEIG received 1,270 complaints comprised of 1,615 allegations. The Office worked on 522 investigations and completed 461 of them. Of the completed investigations, 84 complaints were found to have merit and 209 were Unfounded. Compared to the 64 Founded complaints in FY 2006, the FY 07 results represent a 31 percent increase in substantiated cases. The remaining complaints were either declined or closed, typically for lack of jurisdiction, or referred to a state or law enforcement agency for further action. The OEIG Hotline received 2,635 completed calls in Fiscal Year 2007. In comparison, for FY 2006 there were: 1,278 complaints; 424 completed investigations; 172 Unfounded cases; 64 Founded complaints; and 2,920 completed Hotline calls.

“Although our investigative and legal staffs are highly trained and experienced professionals, the most important factor in a successful investigation is an honest and forthcoming complainant who can provide sufficient information and/or evidence regarding State employee fraud, abuse, or misconduct,” said Wright. “State employees and supervisors, State vendors, and the public in general are more vigilant than ever to the conduct and activities of government employees. They are showing us that they are both courageous and serious about holding wrongdoers accountable for their misdeeds. Moreover, there is substantial evidence that state employees, in particular, are using

their Ethics Training to raise their awareness of ethical issues in the workplace and to report misconduct of which they have become aware.”

Wright said that current statutory restrictions prevent the OEIG from disclosing publicly information from its investigatory files and reports. However, OEIG annual reports do allow the public and other stakeholders access to a statistical view of the contemporary ethical environment within state government, he said.

“The OEIG supports the fullest measure of transparency for founded cases and the legislative changes that will make these reports readily available through the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, while still protecting the identities of complainants,” Wright said.

Established by Administrative Order in January 2003, and promulgated under Article 20 of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430, *et seq.*) in December 2003, the OEIG is an independent, non-partisan State agency dedicated to ensuring accountability in the operation of State government. Its mission is to receive and fairly investigate, as appropriate, complaints of fraud, waste, abuse, corruption, and misconduct by employees of State agencies under its jurisdiction and those doing business with those agencies.

Misconduct complaints can be made to the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor, by calling the OEIG Complaint Hotline, 1-866-814-1113 (TTY 1-888-261-2734), or by fax, 1-312-814-5479. Complaint forms can be obtained at the OEIG web site: <http://inspectorgeneral.il.gov/complaint.htm>. By law, the OEIG cannot accept anonymous complaints, but will uphold the confidentiality of complainants’ identities to the fullest extent permitted by law.

**-- 30 --**